GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6292
ANSWERED ON:05.05.2000
IMPORT OF NEWSPRINT
CHANDRAKANT BHAURAO KHAIRE

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of newsprint imported during 1999-2000;

(b) the gap between the demand and supply of newsprint; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to meet the demand of newsprint?

Answer

MINISTER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY

(SHRI MURASOLI MARAN)

(a) the quantity of newsprint imported was 315016 tonnes. during 1999-2000 (April-Jan,2000).

(b) Since newsprint is freely importable with actual user condition with effect from 1.5.95 the gap between the demand and supply is met with through imports.

(c) Apart from permitting the import of newsprint under OGL with effect from 1.5.1995, following steps have been taken by the Government to increase the indigenous production of newsprint:-

(i) Newsprint Industry has been delicensed subject to locational policy.

(ii) Newsprint has been exempted from excise duty.

(iii) There is no Customs Duty on import of wood pulp for manufacture of newsprint.

(iv) With a view to encouraging the indigenous availability of newsprint, such paper mills which are producing newsprint conforming to BIS standards are placed in schedule I to the Newsprint Control Order, 1962 declaring them as mills manufacturing newsprint.